

STEBEN COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY & CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE

Monday, March 6, 2023

9:00 a.m.

*Legislative Chambers, 3rd Floor, Annex Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE:	John V. Malter, Chair Wendy Lozo	Jeffrey P. Horton, Vice Chair Frederick G. Potter	K. Michael Hanna
STAFF:	Jack K. Wheeler James Allard Shawn Sauro Brooks Baker	Christopher Brewer Ken Forenz Jennifer Galvan Craig Patrick	Jennifer Prossick Nate Alderman Tammy Hurd-Harvey
LEGISLATORS:	Scott J. Van Etten James Kuhl Steven P. Maio	Kelly H. Fitzpatrick Hilda T. Lando Nicholas D. Pelham	Carol A. Ferratella Wendy Lozo
OTHERS:	Mary Perham		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Malter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Mr. Hanna to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023, MEETING MADE BY MR. HANNA. SECONDED BY MR. HORTON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

III. DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

A. Sheriff's Office

1. **Purchase of MDT's** – Sheriff Allard requested authorization to purchase 11 MDT's that were approved in the 2023 budget. The total cost will be \$52,393.15.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO PURCHASE 11 MDT'S FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$52,393.15 MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. HORTON.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated she had done a ride-along with the Bath Village PD. Do they have similar equipment? Sheriff Allard replied it is very similar. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented during the ride-along, sometimes the equipment did not work. Is the technology better? What makes the MDT's not work properly? Sheriff Allard replied for us, we have connection issues throughout the County. There are spots that do not have any coverage. Mr. Van Etten asked are these replacements? Sheriff Allard replied yes. Our current MDT's are beyond their end of life use, which is typically five to six years.

ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **High Visibility Engagement Campaign** – Sheriff Allard requested authorization to accept the 2022-2023 High Visibility Engagement Campaign award. This was previously known as the STOP-DWI Crackdown. The award is \$17,500 from the Governor's Traffic Safety Board.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO ACCEPT THE 2022-2023 HIGH VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,500 MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

3. **GTL Contract** – Sheriff Allard requested approval of a contract with GTL for five years to provide inmate telephone and tablet service.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GTL (VIOPATH) FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FOR THE PROVISION OF INMATE TELEPHONE AND TABLET SERVICE, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MR. HANNA. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

4. **Jail Transport Vehicle** – Sheriff Allard stated in his major equipment he had requested a Jail Transport van. After assessing their fleet, he recommended changing that to an AWD Dodge Durango as that will fit their fleet better and will be less expensive.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO CHANGE HIS MAJOR EQUIPMENT LIST TO REFLECT THE ADDITION OF A DODGE DURANGO FOR THE JAIL TRANSPORT VEHICLE AND DELETING THE JAIL TRANSPORT VAN MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MR. POTTER.

Mr. Malter asked will the Dodge Durango have enough capacity? Sheriff Allard replied yes. Primarily, this will be used for trips when inmates are ordered to go to treatment facilities in Albany, Rochester and Buffalo. This vehicle will get better gas mileage and will be all-wheel drive.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

5. **Approval to Purchase Steamer** – Sheriff Allard requested authorization to purchase a food steamer for the Jail. The total cost is \$28,665.49 and has been approved in the budget.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE SHERIFF TO PURCHASE A FOOD STEAMER FOR THE JAIL FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$28,665.49 MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. HORTON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

B. Personnel

1. **Reclassification – Sheriff’s Office** – Mr. Alderman requested authorization to reclassify two currently filled Deputy Sheriff Corporal positions, Grade 12, to Deputy Sheriff Sergeant positions, Grade 13. A number of years ago we had created the Deputy Sheriff Corporal position to bridge the gap between a Deputy Sheriff and a Deputy Sheriff Sergeant. At this point, there is no need to have the Deputy Sheriff Corporal title.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TWO CURRENTLY FILLED DEPUTY SHERIFF CORPORAL POSITIONS, GRADE 12, TO DEPUTY SHERIFF SERGEANT POSITIONS, GRADE 13 IN THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MRS. LOZO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

C. Emergency Services/E-911

1. **Fiber Connection to Civil Defense** – Mr. Forenz requested authorization to enter into a contract with STN (Southern Tier Network) to connect existing fiber from CR 113 to the Civil Defense Center. The total cost is \$22,900 and will be paid for with grant funds.

MOTION: AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SOTHERN TIER NETWORK TO CONNECT EXISTING FIBER FROM CR 113 TO THE CIVIL DEFENSE CENTER FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$22,900 TO BE PAID WITH GRANT FUNDS MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MR. HORTON. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

2. **EMS Coordinator Position** – Mr. Forenz stated they had forwarded the proposed job description for the EMS Coordinator position and are ready to move forward and see what candidates are available. Mr. Wheeler stated they have done a great job with this. This is just the first step in the process. Mr. Malter asked does this position incorporate the training aspect? Mr. Wheeler replied this position will have the primary responsibility for helping to coordinate the training. This is the appropriate position that we can recruit for. We need an individual who is a paramedic who is also able to provide training.

MOTION: WAIVING RULE 16B AND AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COORDINATION POSITION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY MADE BY MR. POTTER. SECONDED BY MRS. LOZO.

Mr. Van Etten asked what is the pay grade for this position? Mr. Wheeler replied Personnel has to get the Union to agree to adding this position. We will be advertising in the \$60,000 range. Mr. Hanna asked what is the availability of people who would be qualified? Mr. Forenz replied we will have to see.

VOTE ON PREVIOUS MOTION: ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0. Resolution Required.

3. **EMS Volunteer Training Discussion** – Mr. Forenz stated they have requested from NYS, the number of EMT's that have been certified in Steuben County and we have not been able to get that information yet. We did a rough calculation and if we had two classes per year with 20 students, the cost would be in the \$40,000 - \$50,000 range. Mr. Malter stated he had proposed \$50,000 for training. Mr. Forenz stated 140 hours of training are required for an initial EMT student and 45 – 50 hours of training are required for EMT's to be recertified. Including the field time for the new students, that would be about 160 hours total. Mr. Malter stated to make forward progress on this we need to provide funding to the students which will help the volunteer ambulance corps.

Mr. Potter stated there was a letter to the editor in the Addison Post last week and the writer stated they would like to see an ambulance district created for Woodhull, Jasper, Troupsburg, West Union and Greenwood. He stated he was glad to see that. Mr. Wheeler stated we had heard that and we have been in communication with the City of Hornell. Mr. Potter stated the City of Hornell has been contracting with these towns and they have to pay for that service. To me, it is worth it to have the coverage. If they can bring this to fruition, that will be a big help.

Mr. Van Etten stated if multiple municipalities are involved, it makes sense to have Emergency Services get involved and lead it. Mr. Wheeler stated we could certainly advise them and get them more data. Mr. Potter stated he can reach out and offer any help that he or the County can give in this process.

Mr. Van Etten asked would there have to be a new CON (Certificate of Need)? Mr. Wheeler replied I do not know. When municipalities are doing this, the State is much more favorable as opposed to a private provider coming in and requesting a CON. Mr. Van Etten asked what is the cost to obtain the CON? Ms. Prossick replied the cost is mainly the attorney fees and administrative work. I don't know if we could assist them to some extent. We are expecting to pay \$15,000 for our CON application.

Mr. Potter asked could the County assist with the financial cost? Mr. Wheeler replied I don't know that I would put that on the table right away. As the discussion evolves, we could talk about that if there is a financial roadblock that would impede that process. Mr. Horton asked would each municipality need a new CON or could all four be brought in under one? Ms. Prossick replied the CON's are jurisdictional. It would depend if all the municipality lines match up or if they would need to create a new entity. Mr. Wheeler stated if the municipality has a CON, they could designate it to a new district. Mr. Potter stated I think most of the towns have a mutual aid agreement now.

Mr. Malter stated this is one of the areas where we are underserved and this would be a great help. We should certainly support it.

4. **CAD Replacement** – Mr. Forenz informed the committee that Mr. Marshall has been working on the pricing for the CAD replacement. Mr. Wheeler commented our current CAD system will be at end of life by the end of the year. This is a planned replacement and has been budgeted for.

5. **Pinnacle Tower Site** – Mrs. Ferratella asked for an update. Mr. Forenz stated the equipment will be coming in the next month or two. We are hoping to have it up and running by the end of April or beginning of May if everything stays on track.

6. **Accreditation** – Mr. Malter congratulated the department on achieving State Emergency Management Accreditation. What does that entail? Mr. Forenz replied it is a long process of having plans reviewed and meeting set criteria.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. District Attorney

1. **Infant Fatalities** – Mr. Baker stated that he wanted to make the committee aware of events that happened last week. We responded, in conjunction with the Department of Social Services and the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) group, to two fatalities involving infants. We have had four infant fatalities since the beginning of the year. All four cases have a common denominator, which is drug abuse and domestic violence history. They had contact with Law Enforcement but there was not enough to hotline. We have had a great history of cooperation with law enforcement, DSS and others. We have the CAC in place which has a multidisciplinary team and we all work together to gather information. We need to find a way to gather more information. Nobody was able to get to these homes and get them help in advance.

Mr. Baker stated we had a domestic review team from the State come in on Friday. I wanted to make you aware that we have a significant problem and we have the tools to deal with it, but we need to do some different things. He stated that he has already discussed this with Commissioner Muller and he will be talking to the Sheriff and the police chiefs. There is nothing in our current system that is designed to deal with this. This is not a failing on the part of DSS as they did not have the information in time to intervene. He noted that the CAC is a great centerpiece for this. We need to enhance and add some additional outreach to that.

Mr. Malter stated the next step is for Mr. Baker to meet with the departments. Mr. Baker stated he will begin that process and hopefully bring a preliminary plan back to the committee next month.

2. **Deputy District Attorney** – Mr. Baker announced that he has hired a Deputy District Attorney; Joan Merry. Mrs. Merry had been a part-time Assistant District Attorney and has 25 years of experience. She has been serving as the chief DSS attorney in Allegany County. He stated that he is excited for her to join the office.

B. Public Defender's Office

1. **RFP for Investigative Services** – Mr. Sauro recommended awarding the RFP for Investigative Services to the low bidder, John Sandal d/b/a Sand Investigations. He commented Mr. Sandal is our current provider. He would like authorization to contract for two years at a rate of \$70.00 per hour.

MOTION: AWARDING THE RFP FOR INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES TO THE LOW BIDDER, JOHN SANDAL, D/B/A SAND INVESTIGATIONS AND AUTHORIZING A TWO YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE AT A RATE OF \$70.00 PER HOUR MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MRS. LOZO. ALAL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

C. **2023 Goals** – Mr. Malter asked if any committee members had any proposals for goals? He stated we have the ongoing EMS situation. The only other thing he could think of is looking at the changes in the departments that we oversee; going back and looking at the flow charts and *Administrative Code*.

Mr. Horton stated there is a county employee who has concerns in their department and they are afraid to tell anyone. They also indicated that they did not hear about the results of the employee survey and they have not seen any changes.

Do we have something where they could turn information in? Mr. Wheeler replied we do have that available in a number of ways. We have talked with the Union extensively about this. We like people to go through the chain of command first, but they do have the ability to contact Personnel, the County Manager and the Law Department. We have asked the Union to help get that information out there. He stated he is not aware of any incidents where employees have brought complaints and then faced retaliation. He stated he also receives some of that feedback. If it is a confidential situation, they can certainly go to Personnel. Depending on the allegation, there is a formal process that happens. As part of the employee survey, we are involved with Union leadership to head off any issues before they balloon. We prefer employees to work through their department head first. They can also come to my office, Personnel or the Law Department. Mr. Wheeler stated especially in Public Works, we have been meeting more with those employees.

Mr. Alderman stated we meet with the Union every two weeks. They come in with a checklist and they do have more opportunities to come in and talk with us. He stated that he has seen employees come to their office and talk with them a lot more. We want to hear how the employees feel and what is important to them.

Mr. Van Etten stated with the employee survey, when we suggested that, the point was we had to be responsive to it. Mr. Wheeler stated we did send the results of the survey to the employees and we are doing a newsletter. There have been more department head meetings and more meetings with the Union. We are working more on communication.

Mr. Horton stated his goal for the committee would be to keep communication open. Mrs. Ferratella commented once we talk to the Union, we need to make sure they are going back and finishing the link to the employees. Mr. Wheeler stated we are working with them to make sure concerns are communicated back to the department. Many times our office or Personnel closes the loop. Many times we are closing the loop with the department head.

Mr. Van Etten commented with regard to committee's goals, you have the EMS issue. You did a good job last year and now you just have to carry that out to fruition.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. HORTON. SECONDED BY MRS. LOZO. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature

****NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR****

Monday, April 3, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Please send agenda items to the Clerk of the Legislature's Office

NO LATER THAN NOON

Monday, March 27, 2022